

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in telephone interviews with TOAN TRAN on 7/29/2010 and 10/5/2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing peer privacy, comprising:
forming a path from a provider to a requestor by selecting a plurality of peers in response to receiving a request for information;
updating a table on each peer of said plurality of peers with a respective path index entry for said information;
transmitting a message to said requestor through said plurality of peers, said message comprising said information and a path index for said information from said provider;
determining a next peer according to said path for said information by searching said table of each peer of said plurality of peers with said path index as an index into said table;

retrieving an identity of said next peer according to said path for said information and a respective index peer of said next peer;

encrypting, by a processor, said path index with a public key of said respective index peer of said next peer to form a next state of said path index;

and transmitting a new message with said information and said next state of said path index as said path index to said next peer.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting information, comprising:

updating a respective table of each peer of a plurality of peers with a respective path index entry in response to receiving a path formation message containing said respective path index entry;

receiving a message comprising said information and a path index;

forwarding said information to a next peer in response to a determination of said next peer from said table with said path index as a search index into said table;

forming, by a processor, a next state of said path index by encrypting said path index with a public key of a respective index peer of said next peer;

forming a new message with said information and said next state of said path index as said path index; and

transmitting said new message to said next peer.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing peer privacy, comprising:

selecting a path for information from a provider to a requestor through a plurality of peers in response to a received request for said information;

receiving a respective set-up message at each peer of said plurality of peers, wherein said respective set-up message comprises a predetermined label and an identity of a next peer for said information according to said path;

generating an encryption key;

encrypting said encryption key with a public key of said requestor;

encrypting, by a processor, said encryption key with a public key of said provider;

and encrypting a transaction identifier, a reference for said information, and a first next peer according to said path with said encryption key.

42. (Currently Amended) A method of increasing peer privacy, comprising:

forming a path for information from a provider to a requestor through a plurality of peers in response to a received request for said information;

transmitting, by a processor, to each peer of said plurality of peers a respective set-up message comprising of a predetermined label and an identity of a next peer for said information;

if a label stored at an intermediate peer of the plurality of peers does not match the predetermined label in the set-up message, the intermediate peer stores the predetermined label and the corresponding identity of the next peer;

if a label stored at the intermediate peer matches the predetermined label, the intermediate peer retrieves a previously stored message and generates a next state of

the predetermined label for the setup message, wherein generating the next state comprises encrypting the received predetermined label with a public key of a respective index peer of the next peer; and

transferring said information over said path in a message by determining a next peer according to said path by matching a message label included in said message to said predetermined label.

43. (Canceled).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JEFFERY WILLIAMS whose telephone number is (571)272-7965. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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